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Johnnie Greer not Killed.

A Letter Explains.

A telegram was received by G. B. Greer Sunday, having been sent from El Paso, to the effect that his son, John F. Greer, had been killed at the battle of Casas Grandes, Mexico, on the 6th of this month. A later telegram came, however, sent by the same person, which contradicted the first telegram and stated that young Greer had not been killed. Still later the dispatches contained the name of John F. Greer in the list of Americans slain in the Casas Grandes battle. In addition to this, a companion of John Greer reached El Paso, claimed to have been in the fight with him; that he saw Greer when he was shot, saw him fall and that he was left on the field dead.

These conflicting statements led to various beliefs, some holding that Greer was dead, others that he had made his escape. To add to the confusion, other reports have drifted in that have given both sides of the question and adding hope or despair, as it may be viewed. In the meantime, Greer's aged parents, his own family and other relatives are grieved and sad, awaiting the confirmation of their fears or of their hopes. This suspense was ended yesterday when the elder Greer received a letter which announced that his son was alive, though wounded. The letter describes the battle, the retreat and all the surroundings in such a definite manner that it carries conviction. The letter is herewith reproduced, only the name of the writer being withheld:

El Paso, Texas,
March 13, 1911.

Mr. G. B. Greer,
Parsons, N. M.

Dear Sir:

I write this at the request of J. F. Greer, whom I met during the retreat of Madero's army from the battle of Casas Grandes to San Diego, where he now is.

He wished me to assure you that he was all right, although wounded. He was shot with a Mauser in the hip, inflicting a bad flesh wound. He was also slightly wounded in the face—head and face—by a bullet striking a stone in front of him and splashing in his face.

Another close shave he had

was the cylinder of his 6-shooter being shot out of his belt: his horse was shot.

But am pleased to say he was still on the job, winchester in hand, belt empty, on a horse behind a Mexican who had but one eye left, holding him in the saddle, making a good get-away.

He reached San Diego safely, where his wounds were dressed, and the last time I saw him he was as good as new.

The Americans at Casas Gran-

des lost heavily: out of 55 that went in the fight but 10 came back. How many were killed is not positively known, as some were taken prisoners and one or two have shown up on this side of the line.

The heavy loss among them was caused by them having gained a position inside the town, within the lines of the enemy, and reinforcements coming in, they were cut off, but one man, Capt. Valencia, escaping.

If there is anything further you wish to know or that I can do for you, address me.

[Here the writer gave his name and address, which are withheld. Mr. Greer at once directed a letter to the address given, asking for more particulars, and expects a reply tomorrow.]

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